

22 August 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Chief of Operations
Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: Albanian Operations

1. Reference is made to the decision taken at the last PMS meeting to the effect that the Albanian operations plan submitted by CIA to PMS on or about 29 July 1953 by Mr. Bellows was to be "put on ice" until such time as the matter might be discussed at a high policy level with the British and that at the present moment there is no immediate prospect of such discussions with the British.

2. It is deemed important the PMS be put more currently on notice of the fact that a program of covert operations to undermine the Albanian regime is still going on and that these consist in brief of the following types or categories of action:

a. the mounting of infiltrations into Albania with the purpose of establishing clandestine resistance networks and collecting intelligence.

b. the maintenance of the National Committee for Free Albania as a rallying center for anti-Communist Albanians and as a cover organization behind which CIA carries on political and psychological warfare against the regime.

c. a program of anti-regime propaganda directed at the Albanian people and carried on through the media of leaflets dropped from the air, clandestine radio broadcasts, a weekly newspaper and a news bulletin, and the use of the radio to carry propaganda material into the country.

d. the maintenance of a guard company of some two hundred Albanians in Germany. While this unit is under complete control of the Army, it is available for exploitation by CIA in the event of an urgent need for manpower.

3. Operations of this character are long range in nature, requiring much planning and preparation, and once started, it is extremely difficult to suspend such operations and thereafter call them into

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activity again. (The activities involve a committee of political personages, politically motivated agents, and resistance elements inside the country who will feel abandoned and will tend to disintegrate.)

4. Under these circumstances it is our view that unless and until a definite decision is taken to abandon the entire program, we should, unless instructed to the contrary, continue our present operations program - holding it down to about the same scale of activity as currently in effect. (We will be doing what we have planned and embarked upon but without augmentation.)

5. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it should be called to the attention of PAB that CIA activities in and of themselves will not achieve the larger objectives envisioned by the Albanian operations plan submitted by Mr. Dallas.

[]
Chief, SE

(Signed) FRANK G. WISHER

[] /awm

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